This would depend on the trading conditions.

Collection of assessed duties from default companies

709. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring forward a comprehensive legislation to empower it to collect assessed duties which the default companies very often hold up with themselves while excise duty claims lie in disputes in Courts; and

(b) what is the number of such cases pending in courts and the amount held up at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Among the proposals before the Government to ensure that revenue does not get blocked in Court cases is a proposal to make it an offence under law to collect duties from the public and hold on to the amount, without depositing it in Government account.

(b) About 7000 cases relating to Central Excise Duties are pending in various Courts. Most of these relate to issues having a bearing on the rate of duty valuation and excisability of the products. Quantification of revenue involved in individual cases is possible, only after Court decisions are available.

Sticky accounts in the London Branch of the Central Bank of India

710. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the recent report of the Auditors the London Branch of the Central Bank of India has 'sticky accounts' totalling Rs. 115.53 crores; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) No, Sir. The auditors of Central Bank of India in their Report to the President of India have indicated that a sum of Rs. 11553 lakhs due from certain constituents in London (including a company which is in liquidation) has been considered as recoverable on certain assumptions detailed by them in the Report and published by the bank along with its Annual Accounts for 1984.

(b) In accordance with statutory provisions and practices and usages customary among the bankers, affairs of or relating to the accounts of constituents cannot be divulged by the banks.

Seizure of gold biscuits by the Customs Authorities

711. SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA:
SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gold biscuits weighing about 25 Kgs. were recently seized by the Customs authorities in Delhi which were hidden in a consignment meant for an official of a foreign mission; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reaction of Government with regard to the smuggling activities by foreign diplomats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) On 29th May, 1985, the customs authorities at Delhi Airport examined